

2 April 1957

Comments on Mr. Edmondson's proposed CIA article

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I should say that it is unfortunate that this thing is going to be published because I should suppose that most people would read it rather casually, coming to a rather vague conclusion to the effect that CIA is a bad thing. Most readers---having nothing much better than this to guide them---would certainly wonder why a Congressional committee wasn't set up long ago. I doubt that any reader would write his Congressman demanding that CIA be shackled or abolished on the basis of what Edmondson says because it's all been said before without arousing any particular tumult. I doubt that many readers would perceive the contradictions and questionable inferences in the article, or even necessarily catch its pro-Chinese Communist flavor. I presume, however, that there is really nothing much we can do about it except correct errors within the limits of our policy in such matters.

Of all the various errors of fact and interpretation that could be observed in the article, the only one that seemed to me worth correcting (if even this one) was on the date of Mr. Dulles' appointment to the Agency. ~~There is no point in saying that Dulles had nothing whatever to do with decisions surrounding the advance beyond the 38th parallel. The value, if any, in pointing this out would be that Edmondson has based a contention primarily on this point, so that he might wish to change part of his attack if he realized his mistake.~~

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Date 3/31/92

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HS/HC-1166